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Statistical Commission

Report on the thirty-seventh session (7-10 March 2006)

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Note

Symbols of United Nations documents are composed of capital letters combined with figures. Mention of such a symbol indicates a reference to a United Nations document.

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft resolution for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening statistical capacity*

The Economic and Social Council,

Deeply concerned that (a) there still exists in many countries a lack of adequate data to (i) assess national trends in the context of monitoring progress towards the realization of all the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and (ii) inform and monitor the implementation of national development policies and strategies, and (b) in many countries where data do exist, there is lack of capacity to use them and, in certain cases where country data are available, they are not used to the extent possible,

Affirming that without a coordinated effort to enhance and sustain statistical capability in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, effective monitoring of progress towards national as well as internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is being compromised,

Recognizing the fundamental importance of sustainable national statistical capacity to produce reliable and timely indicators of a country's progress,

Expressing its concern about the validity of the use by international agencies of imputed data, particularly when there is a lack of transparency in their methodology,

Recalling its resolution 2000/27 of 28 July 2000, in which it reaffirmed the importance of national efforts to build statistical capacity in all countries, including through statistical training, and of effective international support in this context for developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

Further recalling its resolution 2005/13 of 22 July 2005, in which it noted the critical importance of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses for meeting data needs for the follow-up activities to the international conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit,

* For the discussion, see chap. IV, paras. 78-83.

Stressing that all review and follow-up processes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields must focus on the progress made in the implementation of commitments,

Reiterating the need for continued efforts by the Statistical Commission to further improve the list of indicators on implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields, including by means of methodological and technical refinement of the existing indicators,

Further reiterating the need to apply and further develop indicators on means of implementation to evaluate progress towards conference goals in creating an enabling environment for development,

1. *Calls on* Member States to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of:

(i) National development policies and strategies;

(ii) The implementation of commitments and the achievement of all development goals at the national, regional and international levels;

2. *Calls upon* the United Nations system, including the United Nations Statistics Division and the regional commissions and international agencies to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity, in particular of developing countries;

3. *Encourages* the strengthening of statistical capacity of the relevant international agencies;

4. *Urges* donor countries and organizations and the international and regional statistical community to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development. They should largely build upon existing national, regional and international initiatives in a coordinated manner and encourage other initiatives to address significant gaps that might emerge;

5. *Calls on* all international agencies, through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goals Indicators, under the coordination of the United Nations Statistics Division and in accordance with the guidance provided by Member States through the Statistical Commission, to improve the coverage, transparency, and reporting on all indicators in order to enhance the database on all Millennium Development Goals, including through:

(a) Defining priorities and developing a strategy to improve data for all indicators;

(b) Identifying ways, including through capacity-building where needed to improve countries' reporting on all MDGs;

(c) Avoiding imputation unless specific country data are available for reliable imputations following consultations with concerned countries and through transparent methodologies;

(d) Ensuring that the supporting metadata complies with guidelines developed by an expert panel constituted by the Statistical Commission for that purpose, and in this regard requests the Secretariat to forward recommendations to the Statistical Commission for consideration and adoption;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the regular report on statistical capacity-building to be presented under the relevant agenda item for discussion by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session.

B. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

2. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-seventh session and provisional agenda, dates and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-seventh session;

(b) Decides that the thirty-eighth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 27 February to 2 March 2007;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Education statistics (programme review);

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

(b) Population and housing censuses;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the World Health Organization

(e) Washington Group on Disability Measurement;

Documentation

Report of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement

4. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

(c) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Distributive-trade statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Integrated economic statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(f) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics

(g) Statistics of international trade in services;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services

(h) Information and communication technology statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

(i) Finance statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Monetary Fund

(j) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(k) Price statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes

(l) Informal sector statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

5. National resources and environment statistics: environmental accounting.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the London Group on Environmental Accounting

6. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division):

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the work programme of the United Nations Statistics Division

(c) Management issues in national statistical offices. Access to microdata:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Statistics of human development:

Documentation

Report of the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme

(e) International economic and social classifications:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the International Labour Office

(f) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata:

Documentation

Report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange

(g) Coordination of ongoing methodological work:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Statistical capacity-building:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century (PARIS 21)

(i) Dissemination of statistics by the United Nations Statistics Division:

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(j) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(k) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

7. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-ninth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General containing the multi-year programme of work of the Commission

8. Report of the Commission on its thirty-eighth session.

C. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

37/101
Programme review: industrial statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the programme reviewer on industrial statistics[1] and noted its appreciation of the work carried out by Japan;

(b) Agreed with the recommendations set out in the report relating to data collection standards, data dissemination standards, training and capacity-building and international coordination;

(c) Endorsed the work carried out by the United Nations Statistics Division on the revision of statistical standards, for the recommendations for industrial statistics and index numbers of industrial production;

(d) Requested the Division to prepare a position paper on the above-mentioned recommendations, describing institutional arrangements, deliverables, timetables and consequences of implementing the recommendations, and to submit the paper to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session;

[1] See E/CN.3/2006/3.

(e) Noted that the integration of industrial statistics with other statistics, such as services statistics, needed to be improved in that process, and supported the creation of an integrated economic statistics programme and, as a first step, proposed the preparation of a concept paper for further discussion under item 3 (c) of the agenda.

37/102
Distributive trade statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on distributive-trade statistics,[2] endorsed broadly the initiative and strategy of the United Nations Statistics Division to revise the existing recommendations in that area of statistics, and advised that the revision process be carried out in close consultation with national statistical offices in order to reflect fully the specific needs and circumstances of various groups of countries in general and the needs of countries with a substantial informal sector in particular;

(b) While endorsing the plans of the Division to compile distributive-trade statistics on a worldwide basis and to build a corresponding database on distributive-trade statistics, cautioned that the level of detail requested for international reporting should be commensurate with country needs and capacity to compile and requested the Division to review existing international databases in that area of statistics to avoid creating an additional reporting burden on countries and duplication of work among international organizations;

(c) Advised the Division to develop practical guidance on compilation of distributive-trade statistics, including description of good practices, and conduct technical assistance activities in that area as a matter of priority;

(d) Requested the Division to submit a progress report to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session and revised draft recommendations at its thirty-ninth session for approval.

37/103
Integrated economic statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics[3] and endorsed strongly the concept of an integrated economic statistics approach as the appropriate strategy for the development of national and international economic and financial statistics programmes from both user and producer perspectives;

(b) Recommended that the concept of an integrated approach to national economic statistics programmes be operationalized, including by:

[2] E/CN.3/2006/4
[3] E/CN.3/2006/5

(i) Identifying the building blocks, such as business registers, economic censuses, structural and short-term business statistics across economic activities and class sizes, collections through business and household surveys, use of administrative sources, area sampling, classifications, data processing and institutional aspects;

(ii) Formulating priorities reflecting country and regional policy needs;

(iii) Developing appropriate institutional arrangements to ensure necessary coordination among national and regional organizations involved in the compilation of economic statistics;

(c) Recommended also the establishment of a friends of the chair, consisting of Member States and international organizations, to prepare a concept paper on the modalities of the integrated approach to economic statistics, including the feasibility of establishing a mechanism for improving coordination among international organizations and work groups engaged in economic statistics.

37/104
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Commended the progress made in the updating of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* in the issues-oriented phase of the update process, as reflected in the report of the Intersessional Working Group on National Accounts,[4] acknowledged the focused contributions and expertise provided by a wide range of countries and organizations to the work of that phase and expressed confidence in the Working Group in maintaining the momentum in the drafting and review phases of the update process in 2006 and 2007;

(b) Attributed the commendable progress in the update of the *System of National Accounts, 1993* to the adoption of the project management approach and the extensive use of a transparent interactive website, and recommended that approach and technology in similar statistical projects and programmes;

(c) Welcomed the inclusion of a chapter on the measurement of informal sector activities in the revision of the *System of National Accounts, 1993*;

(d) Took note of the concerns on the treatment of unfunded government pension schemes and the need for continuing consultations on the recommendation of the Advisory Group on National Accounts on that issue, and expressed its positive outlook on a timely resolution within the existing governance structure of the Working Group;

(e) Recommended that the Working Group continue to include the treatment of social services of government in its research agenda;

(f) Recognized the need for adequate response to requests from Member States for assistance in capacity-building for the implementation of the revision of the *System of National Accounts, 1993*, and accepted the proposal by the Working

[4] See E/CN.3/2006/6.

Group to prepare a programme of implementation to be available to the Commission by 2008.

37/105
International economic and social classifications

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications,[5] adopted the structures of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities, Revision 4 and the Central Product Classification, Version 2, as presented to the Commission, recommended that those classifications be recognized as the international standards for economic activity and product classifications respectively, and commended the work by the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, its Technical Subgroup and the United Nations Statistics Division in revising those classifications;

(b) Agreed with the recommendation that countries should adapt their national classifications so as to be able to report data at least at the two-digit level of the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities without loss of information;

(c) Requested further elaboration on the plan for implementing the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities and the Central Product Classification and its resource implication and requested also that the United Nations Statistics Division formulate a plan of work for presentation to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session;

(d) Noted the explanation of the processes required by the International Labour Organization for approval of the International Standard Classification of Occupations, which was planned for completion in 2008, reaffirmed its confidence in those processes, as implied in its decisions at its thirty-fourth, thirty-fifth and thirty-sixth sessions, welcomed the reassurance that, prior to its finalization, the new version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations, would be brought back to the Commission for consultation and advice, and noted also that that had been the essence of its recommendations made at its thirtieth session, held in 1999, by which it had instructed the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications to review all statistical classifications for their adherence to best practice in classifications development prior to presenting them to the Commission, and agreed that the International Labour Organization should work collaboratively with the Expert Group, while respecting each other's mandates, to ensure the soundness of the new version of the International Standard Classification of Occupations;

(e) Agreed not to pursue the creation of a correspondence between the Central Product Classification and the United Nations Standard Product and Services Code and recognized that further work needed to be done to assess the potential of the Central Product Classification for satisfying the statistical needs with regard to price statistics of the Ottawa Group on Price Indexes.

[5] E/CN.3/2006/7.

37/106
International Comparison Programme

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme[6] and expressed appreciation of the significant progress in the Programme due to the leadership of the Executive Board of the Programme, the World Bank, the regional coordinating organizations and the dedication of participating national statistical offices;

(b) Recommended that, for the purposes of transparency and data quality, the price and survey data from each region be subjected to review by the other regional coordinators;

(c) Recommended that the estimation of purchasing power parities and the publication plans involve full consultation with the countries, without allowing restrictions for releasing the results;

(d) Advised that the regional coordinators and the International Comparison Programme Global Office of the World Bank be cautious about the level of detail to be published in the preliminary reports. Several representatives stressed the importance of national policies and laws relating to the access of microdata;

(e) Supported the continuation of the Programme as an ongoing programme to utilize the improved capacity in price data compilation and the established infrastructure and agreed with the recommendation of the Executive Board of the Programme that an evaluation of the 2005 round and a plan on the future of the Programme be submitted to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session;

(f) Requested that efforts be increased for expanding the country coverage of the Programme, particularly in subregions where there had been low or no participation in the current round.

37/107
Environmental accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on environmental accounting[7] and endorsed the long-term objectives, the programme of work and the governance structure of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting;

(b) Encouraged the Committee of Experts to establish a website, hosted by the United Nations Statistics Division, that would serve as a knowledge-based platform so as to facilitate exchanges of best practices and the use of environmental-economic accounts;

(c) Requested the Committee of Experts to focus on the development and promotion of environmental accounting and to refine its working relationship with

[6] See E/CN.3/2006/8.
[7] E/CN.3/2006/9.

the various groups responsible for the development of environmental, energy and related statistics.

37/108
Energy statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the following documents:

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics;[8]

(ii) Report of Statistics Norway on quality components of oil statistics;[9]

and commended the progress made in the area of energy statistics;

(b) Recognized the significance of energy statistics, recommended their development as part of official statistics, including consideration of the need for greater transparency in the documentation of metadata and emphasized the need for capacity-building and training of statisticians;

(c) Supported the establishment and mandate of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics and the Intersecretariat Working Group on Energy Statistics and requested proper coordination mechanisms between them;

(d) Supported the review of the United Nations manuals on energy statistics and requested that the review be based on all relevant methodological work in energy statistics;

(e) Emphasized the urgent need for harmonization of energy definitions and compilation methodologies and for the development of international standards in energy statistics;

(f) Supported the establishment of a broadly based review team to propose common concepts and definitions, and requested that the United Nations Statistics Division submit the modalities of that review team to the Bureau of the Statistical Commission for approval.

37/109
Social statistics

The Statistical Commission, having welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics[10] and endorsed the actions and strategies proposed in paragraphs 12 and 13 therein:

(a) Emphasized the importance of statistical capacity-building and technical assistance as vehicles for improving gender statistics at the national level;

(b) Requested that a follow-up be made to evaluate progress in the national production and reporting of gender statistics, recommended that such analysis and presentation of national statistical capacity display official national statistics to

[8] E/CN.3/2006/10.
[9] See E/CN.3/2006/11.
[10] See E/CN.3/2006/12.

better reveal data gaps, and requested also that the Millennium Development Goals indicators take that perspective into consideration;

(c) Noted the importance of analysing trends in the situation of women and men and requested the Division to continue with that work;

(d) Recognized that gender statistics units played an important role in promoting gender statistics in national statistical systems, but that many other approaches existed to advance gender statistics and, in all cases, it was important to ensure, inter alia:

(i) Better dialogue between users and producers of statistics;

(ii) Collaboration with agencies responsible for the advancement of women;

(iii) Training for both producers and users in the area of gender statistics;

(e) Reiterated the importance of developing and improving basic sources of reliable data, such as civil registration and vital statistics systems, in countries or areas where they were deficient;

(f) Underscored the need for development of concepts and methods relating to the assessment of gender differences in poverty and the measurement of domestic violence and violence against women.

37/110
Principles governing international statistical activities

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed with appreciation the principles governing international statistical activities as presented in the report of the Secretary-General[11] and commended the work carried out by the international organizations involved in their elaboration;

(b) Expressed its appreciation of the fact that, owing to data sharing among agencies, the implementation of the principles might reduce the burden on national statistical offices;

(c) Noted that the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities had recognized the importance of the principles in guiding the professional statistical activities of international agencies;

(d) Noted also that the Committee had agreed that the principles could be used in different ways by agencies depending on their specific mandate and governance (legal framework);

(e) Requested the Committee to:

(i) Assess the implementation of the principles by organizations and report the results of the assessment to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-ninth session;

[11] E/CN.3/2006/13

(ii) Include in the preamble of the principles the description of the role of international organizations in the global statistical system and expand the best practices associated with the principles, in particular principle 6;

(iii) Extend the adoption of the principles to subregional organizations.

37/111
Development indicators

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the following documents:

(i) Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators;[12]

(ii) Report by the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goal indicators;[13]

(b) Took note with appreciation of the efforts by the Inter-agency and Expert Group to improve the Millennium Development Goal indicators on an ongoing basis;

(c) Took note also of the relevant recommendations of the Friends of the Chair, as contained in paragraphs 55-61 of the report, and stressed the importance of addressing those issues in the context of strengthening the statistical capacity-building of Member States, in particular of developing countries;

(d) Recommended that international agencies turn to data imputation only when country data were not available and that should be done in consultation with countries and through a fully transparent methodology;

(e) Recognized that the mechanisms for reporting data from national to international statistical systems should be improved;

(f) Agreed that statistical capacity-building was the key step in improving the availability of data necessary for the monitoring of the Millennium Development Goals;

(g) Agreed that the strengthening of statistical capacity be extended to subregional institutions;

(h) Agreed that the process of assessing and supporting the building of country capacities to monitor the Millennium Development Goals was important and should continue;

(i) Requested the Inter-agency and Expert Group to take into account the relevant recommendations of the Friends of the Chair to improve further the compilation of all the indicators and the monitoring of all the Millennium Development Goals and report back to the Commission at its thirty-eighth session;

(j) Agreed that full consideration should be given to issues related to the production of indicators that were produced regularly by the national statistical systems for all the Millennium Development Goals.

[12] E/CN.3/2006/14.
[13] See E/CN.3/2006/15.

37/112
Health statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Took note of the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics;[14]

(b) Welcomed the Health Metrics Network initiative;

(c) With reference to the World Health Survey:

(i) Expressed the need for greater data harmonization and enhanced collaboration with national statistical offices in the Survey;

(ii) Expressed the concern that the data collection methods of the Survey should be more sensitive to the different cultural circumstances of countries;

(d) With reference to the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics:

(i) Took note of the special circumstances under which the first meeting of the Group had been organized and requested the World Health Organization to hold a second meeting with adequate representation of countries and agencies;

(ii) Recommended that the terms of reference of the Group be redrafted and submitted to the Statistical Commission at its thirty-eighth session for its approval;

(iii) Recommended that a workplan be developed taking into consideration the Budapest Initiative.

37/113
Multi-year programme of work of the Commission for 2006-2009

The Statistical Commission approved its multi-year programme of work for 2006-2009, contained in the note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission,[15] as orally amended.

37/114
Documents considered by the Statistical Commission at its thirty-seventh session

The Statistical Commission took note of the following documents which were before it at its thirty-seventh session:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the note by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on follow-up by the Bureau of decisions taken by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session;[16]

[14] See E/CN.3/2006/17.
[15] See E/CN.3/2006/31.
[16] E/CN.3/2006/2.

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses;[17]

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;[18]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on poverty statistics;[19]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics;[20]

(f) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics;[21]

(g) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on service statistics;[22]

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames;[23]

(i) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Statistics Division and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the Joint United Nations/OECD System for collection and processing of international merchandise trade statistics;[24]

(j) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics;[25]

(k) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;[26]

(l) Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building;[27]

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building;[28]

(n) Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission;[29]

(o) Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities;[30]

(p) Oral report by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division on programme questions.

[17] E/CN.3/2006/16.
[18] E/CN.3/2006/18.
[19] E/CN.3/2006//19.
[20] E/CN.3/2006/20.
[21] E/CN.3/2006/21.
[22] E/CN.3/2006/22.
[23] E/CN.3/2006//23.
[24] E/CN.3/2006//24.
[25] E/CN.3/2006/25.
[26] E/CN.3/2006/26.
[27] E/CN.3/2006/27.
[28] E/CN.3/2006/28.
[29] E/CN.3/2006/29.
[30] E/CN.3/2006/30.

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Programme review: industrial statistics

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 7th meetings on 7 and 10 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the programme reviewer on industrial statistics (E/CN.3/2006/3).

2. At the 1st meeting, on 7 March, the representative of Japan made an introductory statement.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China and Canada, and the observers for Australia and India. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of the agenda.

6. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/101).

B. Distributive-trade statistics

7. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 1st and 7th meetings, on 7 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on distributive-trade statistics (E/CN.3/2006/4).

8. At the 1st meeting, on 7 March, the Chief of the Trade Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs made an introductory statement.

9. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and the Netherlands, and the observers for Australia, the Niger and Ghana. The observer for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development also made a statement.

10. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

11. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/102).

C. Integrated economic statistics

13. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 1st, 2nd and 7th meetings, on 7 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics (E/CN.3/2006/5).

14. At the 1st meeting, on 7 March, the Chief of the Economics Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement.

15. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the Netherlands, the United States of America and Mexico and the observers for Chile and Australia.

16. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 March, statements were made by the representative of Cape Verde and the observers for Switzerland and New Zealand. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

17. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Monetary Fund and the observers for Eurostat, the European Central Bank and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

18. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

19. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda.

20. At the same meeting, following statements by the observers for New Zealand and the European Central Bank, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/103).

D. National accounts

21. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings on 7 and 10 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2006/6).

22. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 March, the representative of the World Bank made an introductory statement.

23. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, the Russian Federation, France, Cuba, the Netherlands, the United States of America, Germany and Japan and the observers for the Czech Republic, Cameroon, Suriname, Denmark, Spain, Australia and Mongolia.

24. Also at the 2nd meeting, the observers for the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and Eurostat made statements.

25. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

26. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda.

27. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Germany, France and Cuba and the observer for New Zealand, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/104).

E. International economic and social classifications

28. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 2nd and 7th meetings, on 7 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2006/7).

29. At the 2nd meeting, on 7 March, the Chief of the Economics Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement.

30. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Japan, Germany, the Republic of Korea, Hungary, China and the United States of America and the observers for Australia, New Zealand, Mongolia and Ghana. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

31. Also at the second meeting, the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Labour Organization and the observers for Eurostat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made statements.

32. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

33. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda.

34. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of the International Labour Organization, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/105).

F. International Comparison Programme

35. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings, on 8 and 10 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2006/8).

36. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 March, the representative of the World Bank and the observer for Australia made introductory statements.

37. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, China, Japan, Cuba, Mexico, Ukraine, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Cape Verde and by the observers for Lebanon, Suriname, Uganda, Brazil, the Niger, Viet Nam, Mongolia, Chile and Vanuatu.

38. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the International Labour Organization and the observers for the African Development Bank and Eurostat.

39. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

40. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda.

41. At the same meeting, following a statement by the representative of Cuba, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/106).

G. Environmental accounting

42. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 3rd and 7th meetings on 8 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on Environmental Accounting (E/CN.3/2006/9).

43. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 March, the Chief of the Economics Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the representative of Germany made introductory statements.

44. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, the Republic of Korea, the Netherlands, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the observers for Ghana, Norway, New Zealand, Suriname, Italy, Australia and Qatar. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

45. Also at the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representative of the United Nations Environment Programme and the observer for the International Energy Agency.

46. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

47. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda.

48. At the same meeting, following statements by the representatives of Germany, Finland, the United States of America and the observers for Suriname, New Zealand, Eurostat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/107).

H. Energy statistics

49. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics (E/CN.3/2006/10);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Norway on quality components of oil statistics (E/CN.3/2006/11).

50. At the 3rd meeting, on 8 March, the Chief of the Environment and Energy Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the representative of Norway made introductory statements.

51. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, the Netherlands and China.

52. At the 4th meeting, on 8 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America and the Russian Federation and by the observers for Denmark, Qatar and Argentina.

53. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the observers for the International Energy Agency and Eurostat.

54. Also at the 4th meeting, the representative of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

55. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda.

56. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/108).

I. Social statistics

57. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on social statistics (E/CN.3/2006/12).

58. At the 4th meeting, on 8 March, the Chief of the Demographic and Social Statistics Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement.

59. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Mexico and the United States of America and the observers for Italy, Jordan, South Africa, Ghana, Lebanon, Suriname, Sweden and Australia. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

60. Also at the 4th meeting, the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and the observer for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made statements.

61. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

62. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda.

63. At the same meeting, following statements by the observers for Suriname and the Economic Commission for Europe, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/109).

J. Principles governing international statistical activities

64. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th and 7th meetings, on 8 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on principles governing international statistical activities (E/CN.3/2006/13).

65. At the 4th meeting, on 8 March, the Director of the Statistics Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, made an introductory statement.

66. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Croatia, Finland, Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, South Africa and the United States of America and the observers for Lebanon, Suriname, New Zealand, Jordan, Pakistan, Senegal, Australia, Belarus, Egypt, Ireland and Qatar. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

67. Also at the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Monetary Fund, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, and the International Labour Organization and by the observers for Eurostat, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Economic Community of West African States, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the European Central Bank.

68. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

69. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda.

70. At the same meeting, following statements made by the observers for Ireland, Suriname, the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/110).

K. Development indicators

71. The Commission considered agenda item 3 (k) at its 5th, 7th and 8th meetings, on 9 and 10 March 2006. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators (E/CN.3/2006/14);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals indicators (E/CN.3/2006/15).

72. At the 5th meeting, on 9 March, the Chief of the Statistical Planning and Development Section, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the observer for Australia made introductory statements.

73. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa, Cuba, Germany, the Netherlands and Cape Verde and the observers for Italy, Suriname, Argentina, Algeria, India, the Niger, Pakistan, Ghana and Indonesia.

74. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the International Labour Organization and the observer for the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics.

Action taken by the Commission

75. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda.

76. At the same meeting, the representatives of South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Cape Verde, France, Cuba and Jamaica and the observers for Suriname, India and Austria made statements.

77. At the 8th meeting, on 10 March, following a statement by the representative of France, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended during the discussion (see chap. I, para. 3, decision 37/111).

L. Strengthening statistical capacity

78. At the 5th meeting, on 9 March, the representative of South Africa introduced a draft resolution, entitled "Strengthening statistical capacity" (E/CN.3/2006/L.2), for adoption by the Economic and Social Council, which read:

"*The Economic and Social Council*,

"*Deeply concerned* that there still exists in many countries a lack of adequate data — which is not apparent from the presentation of aggregate data for regions — to assess national trends in the context of monitoring progress towards the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, to inform and monitor the implementation of national development policies and strategies, and to inform and monitor the implementation of commitments towards global partnerships for development, and that in many countries where data do exist they are not used to the extent possible,

"*Affirming* that without a coordinated effort to enhance and sustain statistical capability in many developing countries and countries with economies in transition, effective monitoring of progress towards national as well as internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, is being compromised,

"*Recognizing* the fundamental importance of sustainable national statistical capacity to produce reliable and timely indicators of a country's progress,

"*Expressing its concern* about the validity of the use by international agencies of imputed data, particularly when there is a lack of transparency in their methodology,

"*Recalling* its resolution 2000/27 of 28 July 2000, in which it reaffirmed the importance of national efforts to build statistical capacity in all countries, including through statistical training, and of effective international support in this context for developing countries and countries with economies in transition,

"*Further recalling* its resolution 2005/13 of 22 July 2005, in which it recognized the increasing importance of the 2010 round of population and housing censuses for meeting data needs for the follow-up activities to the international conferences and summits, including the Millennium Summit,

"1. *Calls upon* Member States to intensify their efforts to strengthen national statistical capacity in order to produce reliable and timely statistics and indicators for the monitoring of national development policies and strategies and the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the fulfilment of commitments towards global cooperation for development;

"2. *Urges* the United Nations system, including the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional commissions and international agencies to support national efforts in building and strengthening national statistical capacity, in particular that of developing countries;

"3. *Encourages* the strengthening of statistical capacity of international agencies involved in data compilation, analysis and dissemination;

"4. *Urges* donor countries and organizations and the international and regional statistical community to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in strengthening statistical capacity in support of development; they should build upon new and existing national, regional and international initiatives, in a coordinated manner, and also address significant gaps that might emerge;

"5. *Calls upon* all international agencies, through the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Millennium Development Goal Indicators, under the leadership of the Statistics Division and in accordance with guidance provided by Member States through the Statistical Commission, to improve the coverage and transparency of the existing Millennium Development Goal database, including on Goal 8, by (a) defining priorities and developing a strategy to improve data for indicators where data weaknesses are greatest, (b) identifying ways to improve countries' reporting to the international statistical system, (c) avoiding imputation unless specific country data are available to support reliable imputations through transparent methodologies, and (d) ensuring that the supporting metadata comply with guidelines developed by a panel of experts constituted for that purpose;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in the context of the regular report on statistical capacity-building to be submitted under the relevant agenda item for discussion at the next session of the Statistical Commission."

79. At the 7th meeting, on 10 March, the representative of South Africa introduced a revised draft resolution, entitled "Strengthening statistical capacity", which was circulated in an informal paper.

80. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that the draft resolution contained no programme budget implications.

81. Also at the 7th meeting, the representatives of China, Cuba and Jamaica and the observers for Argentina*, Benin*, Chile*, Costa Rica*, Ghana*, Jordan*, the Niger*, Nigeria*, Pakistan* and Switzerland* joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

82. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Finland, the United States of America, Cape Verde, Canada and South Africa and by the observers for Austria (on behalf of the European Union), Jordan, India, the Niger, Suriname, Nigeria, Brazil, Pakistan, Lebanon, Switzerland, Cameroon, Ghana, Benin, Costa Rica and Chile.

83. Also at the same meeting, the Commission approved the draft resolution, as revised, for adoption by the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A).

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Chapter III
Items for information

A. Population and housing censuses

1. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2006/16).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 9 March, statements were made by the representatives of South Africa and Cuba and the observer for Chile.

3. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Commission for Africa.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses (E/CN.3/2006/16) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

B. Health statistics

6. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th and 7th meetings, on 9 and 10 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics (E/CN.3/2006/17).

7. At the 5th meeting, on 9 March, the representative of the World Health Organization made an introductory statement.

8. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Germany, the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Cuba and South Africa and the observers for India, Egypt and Qatar. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

9. Also at the 5th meeting, statements were made by the observers for the Pan-American Health Organization and Eurostat.

10. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

11. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 4 (b) of its agenda.

12. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/112).

C. Paris Group on Labour and Compensation

13. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (E/CN.3/2006/18).

14. At the 6th meeting, on 9 March, the representative of Hungary made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

15. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation (E/CN.3/2006/18) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

D. Poverty statistics

16. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2006/19);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/20).

17. At the 6th meeting, on 9 March, statements were made by the representative of Cape Verde and the observers for the Niger and Brazil. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Action taken by the Commission

18. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on poverty statistics (E/CN.3/2006/19);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/20) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

E. Environment statistics

19. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/21).

Action taken by the Commission

20. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/21) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

F. Service statistics

21. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on service statistics (E/CN.3/2006/22).

Action taken by the Commission

22. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on service statistics (E/CN.3/2006/22) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

G. Round Table on Business Survey Frames

23. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames (E/CN.3/2006/23).

Action taken by the Commission

24. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames (E/CN.3/2006/23) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

H. International merchandise trade statistics

25. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Statistics Division and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the Joint United Nations/OECD System for collection and processing of international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2006/24);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/25).

Action taken by the Commission

26. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Statistics Division and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the Joint United Nations/OECD System for collection and processing of international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2006/24);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/25) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

I. Informal sector statistics

27. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/26).

28. At the 6th meeting, on 9 March, statements were made by the observers for India and Australia.

Action taken by the Commission

29. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics (E/CN.3/2006/26) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

J. Statistical capacity-building

30. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 5th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2006/27);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2006/28).

31. At the 5th meeting, on 9 March, statements were made by the representatives of Canada and South Africa and the observers for India, Australia and Cambodia.

32. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Children's Fund and the Economic Commission for Africa.

Action taken by the Commission

33. At its 5th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2006/27);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building (E/CN.3/2006/28) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

K. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

34. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2006/29).

Action taken by the Commission

35. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2006/29) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

L. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

36. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 9 March 2006. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2006/30).

Action taken by the Commission

37. At its 6th meeting, on 9 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2006/30) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

Chapter IV

Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 10 March 2006.

2. At the 7th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made an oral report.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Commission took note of the oral report made by the Director of the Statistics Division (see para. 2, above) (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 7th meeting, on 10 March 2006. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (E/CN.3/2006/L.3);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission 2006-2009 (E/CN.3/2006/31). The documents were introduced and revised orally by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch, Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

2. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands and Colombia and the observers for Jordan, Suriname, Argentina, India and Brazil, to which the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded.

3. Also at the 7th meeting, the representative of the International Labour Organization and the observer for the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made statements.

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission:

(a) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for its thirty-eighth session, as contained in document E/CN.3/2006/L.3, as orally amended, subject to review and finalization by its Bureau, entrusted the Bureau to streamline and finalize the agenda, and recommended it to the Economic and Social Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. B);

(b) Recommended that its thirty-eighth session be held in New York from 27 February to 2 March 2007;

(c) Approved its draft multi-year programme of work for the Commission for 2006-2009 (contained in document E/CN.3/2006/31), as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. C).

Chapter VI

Report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 7th and 8th meetings, on 10 March 2006.

2. At the 7th meeting, on 10 March, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session (E/CN.3/2006/L.4) and an informal text of decisions.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Germany, France, Cuba, the United States of America, Finland, South Africa (on behalf of the Group of 77 and China), Cape Verde and Jamaica and the observers for the Niger, New Zealand, Suriname, Ireland, India and Austria.

4. Also at the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the International Labour Organization, the Economic Commission for Europe and the International Monetary Fund and the observers for the European Central Bank, Eurostat and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

5. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded to points raised.

6. At the 8th meeting, on 10 March, the representative of France made a statement.

7. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft report, including the draft decisions therein, as orally amended, and entrusted the Rapporteur with finalizing it.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its thirty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters from 7 to 10 March 2006. The Commission held 8 meetings (1st to 8th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by representatives of 24 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States, representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations also attended. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2006/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 7 March 2006, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairperson:
Gilberto Calvillo Vives (Mexico)

Vice-Chairpersons:
Heli Jeskanen-Sundström (Finland)
Vladimir Sokolin (Russian Federation)
Zhang Weimin (China)

Rapporteur:
Pali Lehohla (South Africa)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. At its first meeting, on 7 March 2006, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda as contained in document E/CN.3/2006/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Programme review: industrial statistics;
   (b) Distributive trade statistics;
   (c) Integrated economic statistics;
   (d) National accounts;

(e) International economic and social classifications;

(f) International Comparison Programme;

(g) Environmental accounting;

(h) Energy statistics;

(i) Social statistics;

(j) Principles governing international statistical activities;

(k) Development indicators.

4. Items for information:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

(b) Health statistics;

(c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;

(d) Poverty statistics;

(e) Environment statistics;

(f) Service statistics;

(g) Round Table on Business Survey Frames;

(h) International merchandise trade statistics;

(i) Informal sector statistics;

(j) Statistical capacity-building;

(k) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

(l) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the thirty-eighth session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of work of the session as contained in document E/CN.3/2006/L.1, as orally amended. In particular, the Commission decided to treat item 4 (b) "Health statistics" as an item for discussion.

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on the note by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on follow-up by the Bureau of decisions taken by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session, under item 2 of its agenda (see chap. I, sect. C, decision 37/114).

7. At the same meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at the thirty-seventh session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the Bank for International Settlements, the European Central Bank, the International Energy Agency, and the Observatoire économique et statistique d'Afrique Subsaharienne.

E. Documentation

8. The documents before the Commission at its thirty-seventh session are listed in the annex to the present report.

Annex

List of documents before the Commission at its thirty-seventh session

Document symbol	*Agenda item*	*Title or description*
E/CN.3/2006/1	2	Provisional agenda and annotations
E/CN.3/2006/2	2	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the note by the Bureau of the Statistical Commission on follow-up by the Bureau of decisions taken by the Commission at its thirty-sixth session
E/CN.3/2006/3	3 (a)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report on the programme reviewer on industrial statistics
E/CN.3/2006/4	3 (b)	Report of the Secretary-General on distributive-trade statistics
E/CN.3/2006/5	3 (c)	Report of the Secretary-General on integrated economic statistics
E/CN.3/2006/6	3 (d)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-secretariat Working Group on National Accounts
E/CN.3/2006/7	3 (e)	Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications
E/CN.3/2006/8	3 (f)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme
E/CN.3/2006/9	3 (g)	Report of the Secretary-General on environmental accounting
E/CN.3/2006/10	3 (h)	Report of the Secretary-General on energy statistics
E/CN.3/2006/11	3 (h)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of Statistics Norway on quality components of oil statistics
E/CN.3/2006/12	3 (i)	Report of the Secretary-General on social statistics

E/CN.3/2006/13	3 (j)	Report of the Secretary-General on principles governing international statistical activities
E/CN.3/2006/14	3 (k)	Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators
E/CN.3/2006/15	3 (k)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Friends of the Chair on Millennium Development Goals indicators
E/CN.3/2006/16	4 (a)	Report of the Secretary-General on population and housing censuses
E/CN.3/2006/17	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Health Organization on health statistics
E/CN.3/2006/18	4 (c)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation
E/CN.3/2006/19	4 (d)	Report of the Secretary-General on poverty statistics
E/CN.3/2006/20	4 (d)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Rio Group on Poverty Statistics
E/CN.3/2006/21	4 (e)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Environment Statistics
E/CN.3/2006/22	4 (f)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on service statistics
E/CN.3/2006/23	4 (g)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Round Table on Business Survey Frames

E/CN.3/2006/24	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Statistics Division and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development on the Joint United Nations/OECD System for collection and processing of international merchandise trade statistics
E/CN.3/2006/25	4 (b)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on International Merchandise Trade Statistics
E/CN.3/2006/26	4 (i)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics
E/CN.3/2006/27	4 (j)	Report of the Secretary-General on statistical capacity-building
E/CN.3/2006/28	4 (j)	Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century on statistical capacity-building
E/CN.3/2006/29	4 (k)	Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission
E/CN.3/2006/30	4 (l)	Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities
E/CN.3/2006/31	9	Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work for the Statistical Commission 2006-2009
E/CN.3/2006/L.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session
E/CN.3/2006/L.2	3 (k)	Draft resolution entitled "Strengthening statistical capacity"

E/CN.3/2006/L.3	6	Provisional agenda
E/CN.3/2006/L.4	7	Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-seventh session

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